

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 17 and 25 have been amended. Claims 20 and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 1-26 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 20 and 26 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the Office Action at pages 2-4, the Examiner rejects claims 1-6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Streck (U.S. Patent No. 5,856,049). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action sets forth that Streck discloses "the switch selectively connects the telephone (i.e., first external terminal device) a fax machine (i.e., a second external terminal device of a second type other than the first type) with the telephone line (i.e., the public telephone network)."

By way of review, Streck discloses "With reference first to FIG. 8, to FAX machine 14" once again includes the normal FAX transmit and receive logic 36, 38 along with the three position electronic switch 26 having the incoming telephone line 12 connected through a plug receptacle 34 to the selector connection of the switch 26. Also present are the connections from the switch 26 to the telephone 10 and the hang up logic 32 connected to sense the devices when connected to the telephone line and to operate the switch 26 in the manner previously described with respect to the previous embodiment. Since there is no specialized dialing logic associated with this embodiment, a manual three position switch 44 is provided for manually forcing the switch 26 from its NEUTRAL to a FAX or TELEPHONE position for calling out (i.e. transmitting) with those devices. The single line answering module 46 includes the answering logic 48 and a ring/carrier signal generator 50 as shown in FIG. 10. When incorporated into a FAX machine 14", however, the power supply of the machine 14"(not shown) can be employed. Turning to FIG 9, it can be seen that the specialized structure of the stand alone answering and switching unit 42 is substantially the same as FAX machine 14" described above. The only difference is that a third plug receptacle 34 is connected to the third position of the switch 26 so that a standard FAX machine can be connected thereto. Also, as alluded to above and as shown in FIG. 10, there must be a power supply 52 for driving the logic 48 and the ring/carrier signal generator 50" (col. 7, lines 42-51).

As mentioned above, Streck discloses a system to allow both telephones and FAX

machines to actively share a common telephone line. However Streck fails to disclose "a first external terminal connection unit having at least fifth pin and a sixth pin through which the second external terminal device is connected to the first and the second pins according to the first switching unit" as cited in claim 1.

In addition, Streck discloses "the single line answering module 46 includes the answering logic 48 and a ring/carrier signal generator 50 as shown in FIG. 10." (col. 7, lines 36-38). In contrast, the claim 1 recites, "a feeding circuit connected to the first and the second pins to keep a current provided from the public telephone network flowing." As mentioned above, it would not appear that the single line answering module can be implemented to "a feeding circuit connected to the first and second pins to keep a current provided from the public telephone network flowing" as recited in claim 1. In addition, Streck discloses that "the only difference is that a third plug receptacle 34 is connected to the third position of the switch 26 so that a standard FAX machine can be connected thereto. Also, as alluded to above and as shown in FIG. 10, there must be a power supply 52 for driving the logic 48 and the ring/carrier signal generator" (col. 7, lines 45-51). It is clear that Streck discloses that a power supply for driving the logic 48 (answering logic) to supply power to the logic 48 but fails to disclose "a feeding circuit connected to the first and second pins to keep a current provided from the public telephone network flowing" as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that Streck does not teach or suggest the invention recited in claim 1.

In addition, for similar rationale, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-6 and 9 depending from independent claim 1 are also in proper condition for allowance.

In the Office Action at pages 4-10, the Examiner rejects claims 8 and 10-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Klupt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,014,299). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action sets forth that in Klupt et al. discloses a selector switch selects a voice communication mode (i.e., determines whether a first external terminal device is selected).

By way of review, Klupt et al. discloses that "the modem coupler functions in the data communication mode in which modem 16 then has access to the telephone system from the telephone set for conveyance of data to and from terminal 17" (col. 4, lines 17-21).

Furthermore Klupt et al. discloses that "in the voice communication mode, the switch is operated to cause poles P_1 and P_2 to then engage fixed contacts C_1 and C_2 . This pair of contacts is connected to terminals T_3 and T_4 of phone jack 25 connected by set cord 11 to telephone set 10" (col. lines 36-41). As such, Klupt et al. discloses checking steps whether a voice mode or a

data communication mode” but fails to disclose “determining whether a first external terminal device is selected” as recited in claim 8.

Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that Klupt et al. does not teach or suggest the invention recited in claim 8.

In addition, for similar rationale, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10-16 depending from independent claim 1 are also in proper condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 17, the office action sets forth that Klupt et al. discloses a modem coupler that corresponds to the terminal device claimed and is used with a telephone set and a modem (i.e. external terminal devices of different type).

Claim 17 has been amended to clarify the features of the invention.

By way of review, the modem coupler functions in the data communication mode in which modem 16 then has access to the telephone system from the telephone set for conveyance of data to and from terminal 17” (col. 4, lines 17-21). Furthermore Klupt et al. discloses that “in the voice communication mode, the switch is operated to cause poles P₁ and P₂ to then engage fixed contacts C₁ and C₂. This pair of contacts is connected to terminate T₃ and T₄ of phone jack 25 connected by set cord 11 to telephone set 10” (col. Lines 36-41).

As mentioned above, Klupt et al. discloses a system to operate two different type of communication modes but fails to disclose “a first external terminal connection unit which serially connects a serial-type external terminal device having a serial-type connector to the public telephone network using the network connection unit according to a first switching unit being in a first state; a second external terminal connection unit which connects a parallel-type external terminal device having a parallel-type connector in parallel to the public telephone network using the network connection unit according to the first switching unit being in a second state” as recited in claim 17.

Therefore, for at least the above, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of independent claim 17 be withdrawn and independent claim 17 be allowed.

In addition, claims 18-19, 21-23 and 24 are deemed patentable due at least to their depending from claim 17.

Regarding claim 25, the office action sets forth that Klupt et al. discloses if a modem is to be connected to a telephone network, it establishes a two-wire serial (i.e., first type of) connection between the telephone network and the mode. If telephone set is to be connected to a telephone network, it establishes a four-wire parallel (i.e., second type of) connection between the telephone network the telephone set.

As detailed above, features from canceled claim 26 has been incorporated into independent claim 25.

Claim 25 is also submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 17, as well as for the additional recitations therein.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

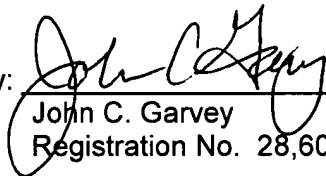
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501